

"If it's in the Newsletter, it must be true"

Maine Powerchute Association

John Gobel, President 852-7300 Mattie Crane, Treasurer 346-6023 Bonnie Micue, Secretary 273-2016

July 2002

Newsletter



We did it again – we had a well-attended annual meeting on a beautiful Saturday morning, where we could even fly for several hours. The annual meeting is when we elect the new club officers, and where we even look like a regular and structured organization for a brief period. Our other meetings are somewhat less than that.

A fair number of us paid on dues in June like we're supposed to, but a number of you still did not, so for those cheapskates, this will be your last Newsletter. "What a relief!" – you say? Well, wait 'til you see the events we've got planned, then you'll be sorry! Also, you'll miss the sexy pictures, the wry humor, and the news from Lake Wobegon (I may be confusing things here). Anyway, here we go...

Just to get you thinking

Actual conversation between control tower and a taxing Cessna:

Cessna: *Durham Ground, this is Cessna 834, request a 360 to parking.*

Control: *Roger, Cessna, 360 approved, 180 recommended.*

[PAUSE]

Cessna: *You've been saving that one for a while, haven't you?*

Doug Sukeforth hosts super event

The first of our four MPA sanctioned powered-parachute-only events was held at Doug's spectacular camp and airfield in Bingham. We had over ten chutes present (and pilots to accompany them).

The original plan called for roasting a pig, but since the logistics involved overwhelmed even an experienced outdoorsman like Doug, we changed the pig to a couple of turkeys (see pictures for a graphic display of the technique). Doug also made a huge pot of beans cooked in a hole in the ground.

We had some pretty decent flying weather several times, and marginally windy conditions at other times. During one of the windy times, Doug, being the perfect host, decided to provide live

entertainment for the crowd by flying into a tree at the intersection of his two runways. Thankfully, he wasn't hurt, but his plane needed some moderate repairs (see pictures).

Anyway, thanks again to Doug and to his lovely wife Rita for putting up with the likes of us – what were you thinking?



The turkey figured he was safe with the bullet-proof vest, but he obviously miscalculated.

Gobel elected President-Florida demands recount

A new slate of officers was elected at our annual meeting at Wayne's field on June 8th – also known as Black Saturday. Several new positions were also added. Here are the results:

President – John Gobel. Running unopposed, final count: 2 votes for, (he probably voted twice), 1 vote against, 37 votes abstained.

Secretary – Bonnie Micue. She was curious what the job entailed, and just casually asked about it. She was immediately voted in unanimously. Never did find out what the job was.

Treasurer – Mattie Crane. Terminally honest, owns a business calculator and has actually read the directions to it. A clear choice for her third term.

Public Relations – Ed Nadeau. This is a new position. When he heard about it, Ed volunteered. Turns out he thought we said “pubic relations” – boy, was he disappointed. But since he’s done such a great job on the web site, he’s our public relations officer.

Safety & Compliance – Bob Ellis. Another new position. Since Bob has gained a reputation as a very safety conscious person (he wears surgical gloves when he visits the porta-potty), he was a natural. He will attempt to turn around our dismal safety record – and it is pretty dismal..

Event Coordinator – Dunbar Seamans. The third of the new officer positions. We badly needed to have professional coordination of the 4 MPA events we have each year. While he personally is not very coordinated, he has tons of organization experience, and just a “together” type of guy.

Other items from the MPA meeting

a. MPA funds.

The membership agreed on the following expenditures from the MPA funds:

1. **\$150** for web presence, including registering the domain name of www.mainepowerchutes.org, buying space from the ISP, and some other small expenses in connection with setting up the site.
2. **\$75** for the porta-potty used at Wayne’s field, and about the same amount at any of the other MPA sanctioned events.
3. **\$180** or so annually for the mailings of the Newsletter, which costs about \$15 each mailing (to about 35 individuals).
4. **\$50** or so for the food at the first MPA sanctioned fly-in at Doug’s.

Mattie gave the Treasurer’s report, and stated we had \$675 at the end of the fiscal year (May 31st), i.e.

before new dues were collected. So subtracting the current expenses above (not counting all the mailings for the year), we have about \$300 left.

b. Sanctioned MPA events

The membership also agreed to have four sanctioned events, for which MPA funds can be used. These are:

1. Early summer fly-in (first one was at Doug’s this year)
2. Late summer/early fall fly-in. Plan is the Aug. 3rd event at Wayne’s. See more on that event later.
3. MPA Christmas Party – sometime in December. No flying. Went really well last two years.
4. Winter fly-in – late January or February, when lakes are frozen, etc. Location is still being sought.

The funds that are needed for these is generally small, like latrine facilities, maybe some traffic control equipment (tapes, cones), and sometimes a donation to the facility that lets us host the event.



Pretty scene at sunset at Doug’s field in Bingham. Notice hungry tree waiting to pounce on unsuspecting PPCs.

c. Survival if you go down

Some of the other issues discussed at the meeting were Dunbar’s comments on safety in the Maine woods, and the importance of survival gear in case we go down over the many heavily wooded areas (see last month’s Newsletter with his article).

d. Centennial of Flight celebrations

There is a Maine chapter of the National Centennial of Flight Celebrations group, whose mission is to have a lot of events in 2003 that celebrate Wright brothers’ first powered flight in 1903, and the incredible history of aviation in the last 100 years. A few of us attended their meeting. While we were considerably underwhelmed by their organizational and their planning abilities, we did tell them that the MPA would participate in some fashion.

The Maine chapter is planning on having some event each month of 2003, with each event being at a different location in the state. These events can be just static displays at a shopping center or a mall, or

flying demonstrations, or discussions at schools by visiting aviators, et cetera. We have not yet decided how the MPA can contribute – maybe fly-by demonstrations, or static displays of our machines with tapes of some of our flying escapades, etc.

e. Sport Pilot update

We submitted our comments to the FAA regarding this proposal. Along with about 2000 other comments, it is being reviewed prior to a final decision being made. When this happens (seems like about 3 years), we'll all have to spend some money to get certified (planes and pilots). However, most of us think that a more serious training program will certainly benefit all of us, and that basically is the essence of the Sport Pilot program.

Membership Dues

At the last MPA meeting, our active membership was 29 paid members (we also send 3 courtesy copies of the Newsletter to non-members). At the time of this publication, we only had 15 people pay for the current year which starts June 1.

So this is a friendly reminder to all you deadbeats out there to fork over a measly \$20 to Mattie (see address below), and continue participating in the greatest organization since Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders. And, in addition, you get the more or less monthly Newsletter, which is the greatest publication since they started selling the toilet paper with Osama bin Laden's picture on it.

Send check to:
Mattie Crane
354 Center Minot Hill Rd.
Minot, ME 04258

Thanks to Bill Grusik!

Bill has been the MPA president for the last 3 or 4 years, and was a prime mover in the formation of our group. He was also instrumental in the sanctioning of the MPA by the ASC. He has been a great advocate for powered parachuting, and a superb spokesman for the responsible enjoyment of our sport.

Although he has passed on the baton of the presidency, and now he can "just fly", he will continue to be a spokesman for our organization and for our sport throughout his many travels.

The MPA owes you a debt of gratitude, Bill, for all you've done for the group. Thanks!!!

Why some pets kill their owners



Next events

August 2nd, 3rd, and 4th – MPA fly-in for PPCs only at Wayne's field in Fairfield. See event descriptions below.

August 23rd -25th – Bowman Fly-in, East Livermore

Sept. 5th – 8th – Greenville Fly-in

Sept 27th – 29th – Gadabout Gaddis Fly-in, Bingham



Bob and Jerry dropped a French fry, and they will find it even if it takes the rest of the day, by golly!

MPA PPC Fly-in at Wayne's field in Fairfield

With Dunbar performing his first major MPA Event Coordinator action, all the details of this gala event are coming together. Here are some specifics:

Those wishing to camp out are welcome to do so – areas will be marked for that purpose. Since there'll be lots of flying activities, and the runway will be marked, we want to make sure that the campers do not interfere with flight operations.

Several games are planned for Saturday evening. Plans are to have as spot landing contests (power on and engine out), carrier landing, balloon drop for

accuracy, and a ground event in which wives or girlfriends or rented females will participate. Overall winner of all the contests will get the TOP GUN award! If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll try the games Sunday morning

We have high hopes of having a food vendor on site selling coffee, donuts, and hot dogs and stuff like that.



LiLi's field from the air. Notice naked sunbather lady lying in the hammock in the trees!

Porta-potty will be available - its use is encouraged.

We have invited our friends from New Hampshire to join us, and at least a few of them indicated that they would attend..

Since we should have more planes in the air than usual, safety will be stressed and steps taken to ensure that we pull this off with NO accidents. On-site safety inspections of aircraft will be available. Pilot briefings will be held, and no one will be allowed to fly unless he/she has received one. Anyone carrying passengers must have a current BFI or higher rating.



Jerry P. showing all the parts you really don't need in a powered parachute

We may get quite a few spectators to this event, so some MPA members have volunteered to assist in traffic control.

Flying in that area is quite beautiful, with several cross country options available. Directions to Wayne's are:

- I95 (north or south) to Exit 36.
- North on Rt. 201 for about 6 or 7 miles
- Left on Rt. 23 – field is right there

The event starts Friday, August 2nd, and will run through Sunday, August 4th.

Dunbar has done a superb job in planning this event, and has coordinated with a number of other MPA members to make sure our first large event will be successful.

Hope to see you there!

In Memoriam

One of the newest members of our flying community, Justin Roy had a fatal motorcycle accident early July. He was only 26 years old, and had just recently soloed with Wayne. He was single, lived in Oakland, and was working at the Augusta Country Club.

Although he was new and not many of us knew Justin, he was one of us, and we will miss him. We sincerely regret this tragic event, and extend our sincere sympathies to his family.



Buckeye Industry's management problems explained! They all went to this college!

Disclaimers

No animals or human brain cells were harmed in the creation of this Newsletter. In fact, human brain cells were not even engaged in the process.